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CPYRGHT

(H-BOMBS)

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR ALLEN DULLES SUGGESTED COMMUNIST CHIEFTAIN NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV WAS EXAGGERATING IN CLAIMING RUSSIA "QUICKLY" WILL HAVE AN INTER-CONTINENTAL MISSILE WITH A H-BOMB WARHEAD.

COMMENTING ON KHRUSHCHEV'S CLAIM, DULLES TOLD REPORTERS:

"I DON'T THINK HE IS GIVEN TO MINIMIZING THINGS.

"I THINK WHAT HE HAD TO SAY IS A LITTLE BIT ON THE HIGH SIDE."

DULLES MADE THE COMMENT AFTER GIVING A SECRET BRIEFING ON RUSSIAN AIR CAPABILITIES TO A SENATE ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE INVESTIGATING WHETHER THE U.S. IS FALLING BEHIND IN THE RACE FOR AIR SUPREMACY.

DULLES LAUGHLINGLY ADDED THAT "IT IS A CHANGE TO HAVE A MAN IN THE SOVIET UNION WHO BLURTS OUT THINGS. MAYBE SOMEDAY WE WILL GET A LITTLE MORE INTELLIGENCE."

MEANWHILE, SEN. HENRY M. JACKSON (D., WASH.), A SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER, TOOK ISSUE WITH AIR FORCE SECRETARY DONALD A. QUARLES'S ASSERTION THAT THE UNITED STATES IS "TECHNICALLY AHEAD" OF RUSSIA IN MISSILE DEVELOPMENT.

JACKSON TERMED THIS "A DANGEROUS ASSUMPTION TO MAKE."

FURTHERMORE, JACKSON SAID, QUARLES'S STATEMENT DOES NOT ANSWER THE QUESTION WHETHER RUSSIA IS AHEAD IN CERTAIN SPECIFIC FIELDS, SUCH AS A BALLISTIC MISSILE WITH A 1,500 MILE RANGE.

JACKSON HAS PREDICTED THAT RUSSIA WILL TEST FIRE SUCH AN INTERMEDIATE RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILE THIS YEAR. THUS FAR, HE TOLD REPORTERS TODAY, "NO ONE IN A POSITION OF AUTHORITY IN THE ADMINISTRATION HAS EVER DENIED THAT SOVIET RUSSIA IS AHEAD" IN DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTERMEDIATE RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILE.

DULLES TODAY COMPLETED THREE DAYS OF SECRET TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE. TOMORROW THE SUBCOMMITTEE WILL HEAR FROM GEN. CURTIS E. LEMAY, HEAD OF THE STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND.

4/24 -- JE 149 P